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R. SINGER

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SURFACE COVER FOR ICE CREAM BOXES

Filed July 17, 1929

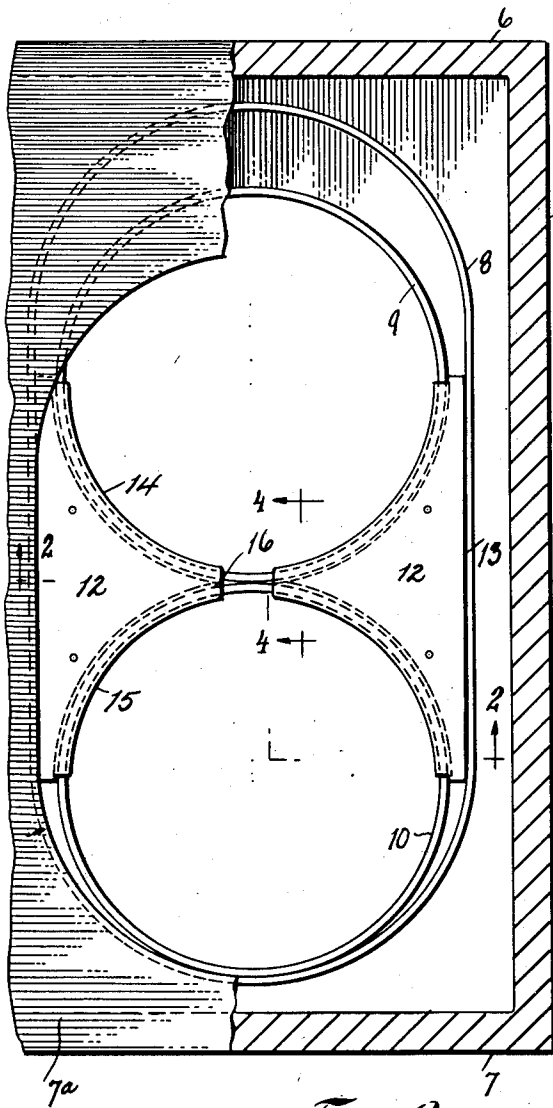


Fig. 1.

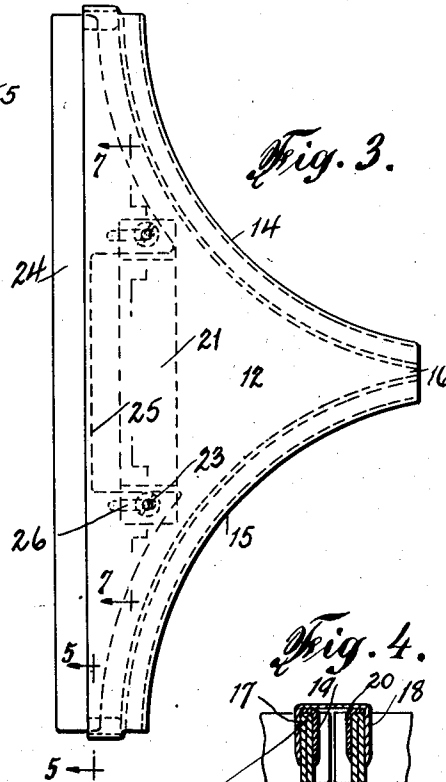


Fig. 3.

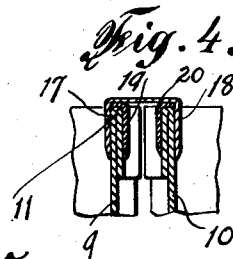


Fig. 4.

Fig. 5.

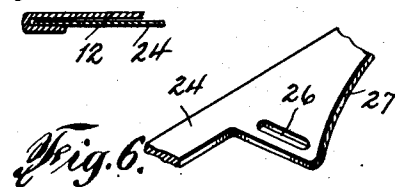


Fig. 6.

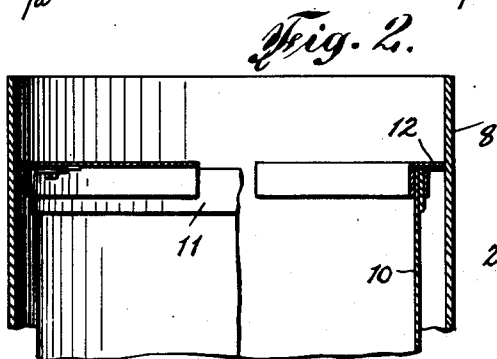


Fig. 2.

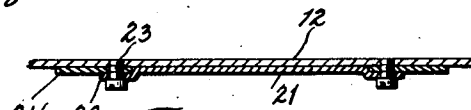


Fig. 7.

INVENTOR
Robert Singer
BY
Aaron L. Applebaum
ATTORNEY

UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

ROBERT SINGER, OF NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

SURFACE COVER FOR ICE CREAM BOXES

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This invention relates to ice cream cans and the like and more particularly to what I term a combined surface cover or closure and rim connector.

In the conventional type of ice cream can refrigerator, there is provided an inner lining or frame which is insulated from the body of the refrigerator. The lining or frame is of such depth as to produce a well for two or more ice cream cans. The wells are usually of a size to accommodate two cylindrical cans, placed one directly behind the other. Electrical or gas refrigeration is employed in the modern type of equipment or the refrigerant may be cracked ice and salt packed about the cans. When the cans are positioned in the wells, there is an open substantially triangular space between the walls of the lining and the can bodies. During the handling of the ice cream in its removal from the cans, there is a considerable loss of ice cream due to the presence of the space between the can bodies and the lining or frame. When ice cream falls on the ice and salt, it cannot be placed back into the containers and when it falls down to the bottom of the refrigerator between the lining and can bodies, it becomes waste. It will thus be seen that the handling of cylindrical ice cream cans in a rectangular outer refrigerator or box has the above objections and others.

In order to overcome the above objections, I have devised a novel and improved construction which not only covers and closes the space between the ice cream can rims and the opposite side walls of the frame or lining but also clamps the rims of the cans together so that they cannot move relatively to each other and relatively to the frame or lining.

More specifically my invention relates to a surface cover or plate and rim connecting structure, constructed and arranged to cover the space and surface between the top rims or edges of the cans and the walls of the frame or lining including provision for expanding and adjusting the cover or plate.

To enable others skilled in the art to more fully comprehend the underlying features of my invention, reference is had to the accom-

panying drawings forming a part of this specification in which

Fig. 1 is a top plan showing the application of my invention, the refrigerator or box being shown in section and the cover broken away.

Fig. 2 is a section taken on the line 2—2 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 3 is a top plan of the surface cover or closure when removed from the cans.

Fig. 4 is a section taken on the line 4—4 of Fig. 1.

Fig. 5 is a section taken on the line 5—5 of Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 is a corner detail of the bottom adjusting plate.

Fig. 7 is a section taken on the line 7—7 of Fig. 3.

Referring now to the drawings wherein like reference characters designate corresponding parts throughout the several views, 5 designates the side wall and 6, 7, the back and front walls and 7a the cover of a conventional refrigerator or box in which is located a frame or lining 8, spaced from the interior thereof. The frame or lining thus produces a well for a plurality of containers and the refrigerant. In the present instance, I have shown two containers or ice cream cans 9, 10 within the well, although it will be understood that any number may be used. Each container or can is usually formed with a reenforced, top rim 11.

Referring particularly to Figs. 1 and 3, I provide a substantially triangular surface plate or cover designated in its entirety by numeral 12 which is positioned on the top of two adjacent ice cream cans covering the space between the said cans and the side walls of the frame or lining. The side edge 13 of the surface plate or cover is parallel with the wall of the frame or lining and the sides 14, 15 are shaped in the form of the segments of a circle having a diameter slightly smaller than the diameter of the cans. It will thus be seen that the sides of the surface plate or cover lie directly over the top rims of the two adjacent ice cream cans.

The segmental, curvilinear sides of the sur-

face plate or cover terminate at the bridge portion 16 of what might be termed the apex of the plate, which however is of such width as to extend across the top rims of the ice cream cans at a point substantially tangential to the rims. Referring to Fig. 4, it will be noted that the respective sides of the surface cover or plate are formed with a depending flange 17, 18 and an inner, substantially L-shaped clamp 19, 20 whereby the cover or plate may directly engage the can rims and retain or hold the same together. It will of course be understood that the left and right surface covers or plates are identical in construction and consequently it is only necessary to describe one.

Under certain conditions, it has been found that the depth of the surface cover or plate, that is to say, the distance from the side edge to the bridge or apex is not sufficient to extend to and engage the frame or lining. In order to meet this condition, I provide a substantially rectangular strip 21 beneath the surface cover or plate, said strip having side bent portions 22 and held by short screws 23. An extension plate 24 having a base substantially the length of the base of the cover plate is adjustably connected thereto, said extension plate having a central U-shaped cut out portion 25 and longitudinal slots 26 for the passage of the screws 23 therethrough as shown more clearly by Fig. 7 whereby a proper adjustment may be made. It will also be noted that the curvilinear portion 27 of the extension plate takes the same curvature as the top surface cover or plate and that by moving the extension plate inwardly or outwardly relative to the main surface cover plate, it may be adjusted so as to contact with the wall of the frame or lining to completely cover and close the space between the cans.

From the above construction, it will be seen that the surface cover or plate performs two major functions. First, it closes the space or opening between the cans and the inner frame or lining, preventing any of the ice cream from falling into the ice or open space below. It also locks or clamps the cans together preventing their relative movement to each other or to the box or refrigerator. The surface cover or plate produces a sanitary condition so that in the event any ice cream is accidentally dropped on the plate, it may be returned into the container.

While I have shown and described my invention with some degree of particularity, it will be realized that other modifications and changes may be resorted to under special conditions. I therefore do not wish to be limited and restricted to the exact details shown and described but reserve the right to make such changes and modifications as may fairly fall within the scope of the subject matter now being claimed.

Having shown and described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is:—

1. A surface cover of the class described comprising a plate which is flat and smooth on the top and shaped to extend between two circular ice cream cans, and means for fastening said plate to said cans.

2. A surface cover of the class described comprising a plate which is flat and smooth on the top and of such shape as to extend between two circular ice cream cans, and means at the bottom of said plate for connecting the same to said cans.

3. A surface cover of the class described comprising a substantially triangular plate which is flat and smooth on the top and adapted to extend between and at the top of two circular ice cream cans, and clamping means extending from the bottom of said plate for engaging the rims of said cans.

4. A surface cover of the class described comprising a substantially triangular plate adapted to extend between and at the top of two circular ice cream cans, the apex of said plate bridging the top rims of said cans and clamping means carried at the sides and beneath the plate for engaging the rims of said cans.

5. A surface cover of the class described comprising a substantially triangular plate having means for engaging the rims of two adjacent ice cream cans and an extension plate adjustably connected to the base of said triangular plate.

6. A surface cover of the class described comprising a substantially triangular plate which has on two of its three sides clamping means for engaging the top rims of two adjacent ice cream cans and an extension plate attached to said triangular plate along the base thereof and adjustable substantially in parallelism with the third side of said triangular plate.

7. A surface cover of the class described comprising a substantially triangular plate, the sides of said plate being curved to conform to the curvature of the rims of two adjacent ice cream cans, clamping means along the side edges of the plate for engaging the rims of said cans and an adjusting plate attached to the base of said triangular plate.

In testimony whereof I affix my signature.
ROBERT SINGER.